

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 04625 131926Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /065 W

----- 078136

R 131921Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7878

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USNMR SHAPE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 04625 131926Z

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 04625

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FR, PGOV

SUBJECT: MAJORITY REACTION TO FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY
CONGRESS

1. MEMBERS OF PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING'S MAJORITY HAVE PREDICTABLY CHARACTERIZED THE FEBRUARY 4-7 FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCF) CONGRESS (SEPTTEL) AS A TRANSPARENT EFFORT TO CONVINCE PUBLIC OPINION THAT AT LONG LAST THE PCF IS A RESPECTABLE PLAYER ON THE FRENCH POLITICAL SCENE. WITHOUT EXCEPTION, THEY HAVE WRITTEN OFF CONGRESS RESULTS AS MERE TACTICAL MANEUVERS AIMED AT INCREASING PCF VOTING STRENGTH, BUT DEVOID OF DOCTRINAL SIGNIFICANCE. THIS WAS THE CASE BOTH FOR PCF DROPPING OF THE "DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT" CONCEPT AND ITS ATTEMPT TO APPEAR MORE INDEPENDENT FROM MOSCOW.

2. MINISTER OF JUSTICE LECANUET AND OTHER MAJORITY SPOKESMEN HAVE ALSO CRITICIZED THE "DICTATORIAL AND MONOLITHIC" DECISION-MAKING PROCESS EMPLOYED BY THE CONGRESS IN ADOPTING ITS POLICY LINE. HOW COULD THE PCF ASPIRE, THEY ASKED RHETORICALLY, TO ACCEPTANCE BY THE FRENCH AS AN ORGANIZATION WILLING TO ABIDE BY DEMOCRATIC DECISIONS WHEN ITS OWN INTERNAL PROCESSES CONTINUE TO BE DOMINATED BY "DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM"? UDR LEADER OLIVIER GUICHARD PERHAPS BEST SUMMED UP MAJORITY REACTION WITH THE REMARK THAT "DICTATORSHIP WITHOUT THE PROLETARIAT" WAS THE ONLY REAL RESULT TO EMERGE FROM THE CONGRESS.

3. COMMENT: SHORTLY BEFORE THE PCF CONGRESS OPENED, PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC SAID IN A FIGARO INTERVIEW THAT RECENT POLLS SUGGESTING SOCIALIST PARTY GAINS WERE MORE THE RESULT OF PS INROADS AMONG PCF VOTERS THAN INDICATIVE OF ANY MAJOR SHIFT IN MAJORITY-OPPOSITION STRENGTHS. FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION, OTHER MAJORITY FIGURES ARE SAY-

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PARIS 04625 131926Z

ING MUCH THE SAME THING. THEY PREDICT THAT WHATEVER EFFECT THE PCF NEW LINE WILL HAVE WILL BE IN THE DIRECTION OF RECOUPING EARLIER PCF LOSSES TO THE PS, RATHER THAN GAINING NEW CONVERTS FROM THE MAJORITY. NO MAJORITY FIGURE TO DATE, HOWEVER, HAS ADDRESSED THE MORE PERTINENT QUESTION OF WHETHER THE PCF "NEW LOOK", IF FOLLOWED UP BY CONCRETE ACTIONS, WOULD HELP THE SOCIALISTS ATTRACT UNCOMMITTED VOTERS BY FREEING IT FROM THE

BURDEN OF A "STALINIST, DICTATORIAL" ALLY.
RUSH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, COMMUNISTS, PARTY MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS04625
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760057-0074
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760250/aaaabrxm.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <01 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJORITY REACTION TO FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, FR, PCF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006